

# ACE Employee Newsletter

For Amarillo City Employees

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*Pictured above from left to right are: Carl Smith, Tanya Champion, Jose Villarreal, Mikel Vargas, Whit White, Liz Swearingen, Kyle McQuien, Soren Frost, Adam Stone, Brandon Campsey, Garry McDonald, Anthony Sena, Josh Schreur, Richard De La Cruz, Donna Smith, Robert Rasmussen, Kevin Robinson, Eric Reavis and Michael Payne. Not Pictured: Susie Duck and Dorthy Sparks.*

## IT Completes Major Citywide Windows 7 Upgrade

*by Tanya Champion, IT Manager*

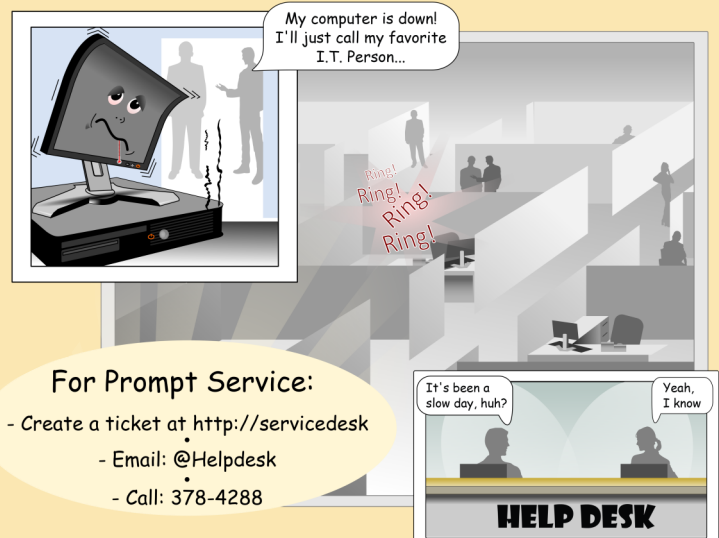
The citywide Windows 7 rollout project is complete! The Information Technology department has been busy the past two years planning, prepping, configuring and testing Windows 7 for use in the City's computing environment.

The rollout phase began in the fall of 2013 and went into high production in January. The project was quite an undertaking, with 21 IT staff members working nights and weekends to physically touch more than 1,600 computers. The process for each machine was to schedule, pick up, backup, install new operating system and base image, install department specific applications, test, and deliver back to the customer. During this time, the IT conference room was converted into a production room dubbed "The Ninja Den," where up to 18 machines could be processed at a time, and the average turnaround time for each computer was 24 hours. The team streamlined the operation over time and set a record of 110 machines reworked in one week!

While the primary rollout phase is complete, there are a few remaining Windows XP machines still in use. A second project to

handle special cases began this month to upgrade the remaining computers that were placed on hold for various reasons.

The IT department extends our thanks to all of our customers. We appreciate your patience through the upgrades and through the heavy call loads that produced slow responses on calls for service. The IT staff is looking forward to summer vacations and manageable call ticket queues!



# Safety Corner: Hydration Help

by *Charlie Sanchez, Safety Director*

Summertime brings sweltering temperatures outside and dryness inside caused by the constant flow of air conditioning, so working anywhere during this season can cause fatigue and dehydration. However, summertime isn't the only time to be concerned about these conditions. Employees in construction, landscaping and street repair typically function in hot environments throughout the year. So do workers who wear heavy protective apparel on the job, which causes them to sweat and lose the necessary water that the body stores to help cool itself. In addition to health and safety concerns, studies show hand/eye coordination can weaken under just one percent dehydration. Therefore, it is essential to maintain proper hydration planning year-round.



ability to change shape and return to normal, is an easy way to check your hydration. Using your pointer finger and thumb, simply pinch the skin on the back of your hand and hold for a few seconds. When you let go, if the skin takes a while to return to its normal position, you may be dehydrated.

## Tips for employees:

- Avoid caffeinated, carbonated, sugary beverages like soda. These drinks are diuretics which can increase dehydration. Monitor how often you drink. By the time you feel thirsty, you are already dehydrated, so drink recommended fluids often (one cup every 15-20 minutes).
- Anticipate conditions that will increase the need for water, including high temperatures and humidity. If possible schedule heavy work during the coolest parts of the day.
- Include fruit in your lunch or snack break, as it can be a great source of both electrolytes and fluids. Bananas and dates have high levels of the electrolyte potassium, making them a great source for refueling. Watery fruits like cantaloupe, watermelon, pears, pineapple and grapefruit are more than 90 percent water.
- If possible, wear light-colored, breathable clothing that allows sweat evaporation, to help keep your body temperature down.

Monitor your co-workers for any signs of dehydration and continually remind yourself and co-workers to drink every 15-20 minutes.

**TAKE SAFETY HOME.**

## Know the warning signs:

- Employees need to know when they are at risk for heat illness, which can progress from dehydration to heat exhaustion to heat stroke. Signs of dehydration are thirst and dry mouth, and can be corrected easily by drinking fluids with electrolyte solutions. Indicators of heat exhaustion include irritability, nausea, cramps, chills and heat sensations on the head or neck. Heat stroke cases can result in loss of balance and muscle function; collapse, seizures and even coma. Seek medical attention immediately because this is a life threatening condition.
- Give yourself the pinch test. Skin turgor, which is the skin's

## Family Support Services Honors Officers

Two Amarillo police officers were recognized last month by Family Support Services, a private, non-profit, multi-service agency with an emphasis on helping children and families in the Panhandle region, especially during times of crisis or family turmoil. Det. Luis Hernandez and Sgt. Brent Barbee were both presented with the Award of Excellence.

"When Advocates at Family Support Services have encountered victimization situations that require

extra attention, Det. Hernandez is always approachable and eager to assist by answering questions and offering workable solutions to the dilemma at hand," says Angie Stovall, crisis services coordinator for Family Support Services. "Not only is this beneficial to the crime victim but also to Advocates who sometimes feel they have been presented with an impossible challenge."

Sgt. Barbee received similar praise.

"At times, victims feel that all avenues have been explored and

hopelessly feel there is nowhere else to turn with their cases," Stovall says. "Sgt. Barbee is there to answer questions, help address survivors' concerns, and give these individual situations more attention ... his long and varied career with the Amarillo Police Department illustrates his investment in keeping this community safe and in helping to make the lives of crime victims better."

Please join us in congratulating Det. Hernandez and Sgt. Barbee for being honored with the Award of Excellence.



# Wreath Laying Ceremony Honor Those Who Gave All

As part of National Police Week 2014, law enforcement officers from around the Texas Panhandle gathered at Llano East Cemetery May 15 for a wreath laying ceremony. The event honored those who have given their lives in service throughout the United States — 105 in 2013, and 43 so far in 2014.

An honor guard comprised of officers from the Amarillo Police Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, and both Potter and Randall County Sheriff's Offices presented the colors. The ceremony also included a traditional rendition of "Taps," and a bagpipe performance. The ceremony always draws attendance by a wide variety of uniformed police, fire, and other first responder agencies from all over the panhandle.

For more information on those who lost their lives in the line of duty, visit the Officer Down Memorial Page at [www.ODMP.org](http://www.ODMP.org).



**Above:** Officers Adrian Hernandez and Susan Goodson make a presentation during the wreath laying ceremony honoring fallen officers.

**Below:** Officer Adrian Hernandez addresses a large crowd gathered at Llano East Cemetery.



## From the Pantry ...

*Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD*



## Spinach Manicotti

Serving Size: 2 shells • Total Servings: 7

- 1 package (8 ounces) manicotti shells (14 shells)
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ pound fresh mushrooms, diced
- 1 container (32 ounces) part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups light spaghetti sauce
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

1. Cook the manicotti shells according to the package directions, omitting the salt; drain, rinse, drain again, and place in a large baking dish. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Coat a small saucepan with non-stick cooking spray. Add the onion and garlic and sauté over medium heat until tender. Add the mushrooms and sauté until brown.
3. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine the ricotta and mozzarella cheeses, the egg, spinach, basil, oregano, and pepper. Add the onion mixture; mix well.
4. Spoon the mixture into the manicotti shells (see Note), top with the spaghetti sauce, and sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until heated through.

**NOTE:** An easy way to fill the pasta is to place the cheese mixture in a large re-sealable plastic storage bag, then snip off a corner. Just squeeze the filling into the manicotti shells, using the storage bag like a pastry bag.

Exchanges: 2½ Carbohydrate; 3 Lean Meat; 1 Fat  
Calories: 403 Cal from Fat 134; Total Fat 15 g Sat Fat 9 g; Cholesterol 81 mg; Sodium 668 mg; Carbohydrate 41mg; Dietary Fiber 4g; Sugars 9g; Protein 27g



## Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic Greeted with Smiles



**Above:** Amarillo Police Chief Robert Taylor, Risk Management Director Jim Smith and Safety Director Charlie Sanchez.

**Top Right:** Gloria Carlie, Mickey Brown, Whitney Spencer and Brenda Wells from Purchasing.

**Middle:** Corey Hart, a messenger for the Amarillo Fire Department's Mechanics Shop.

**Bottom:** Earl Parrie, Willie McKinnon, Kyler Horn, Michael Baca, Fabian Martinez, Margarito Benitez, Jordan Melendez, Don Cagle and Evaristo Campos from Waste Water Collection.



## Employees Enjoy Fellowship, Food and Free Zoo Visit



**Above:** James Milligan and Omar Franco greet fellow employees as they pass through the Amarillo Zoo.

**Above left:** One of the many highlights of the luncheon was the ice cream truck—thankfully, the music wasn't playing!

**Middle:** Print Shop Manager Terry Ford, City Secretary Frances Hibbs, Deputy City Manager Vicki Covey, Human Resources Director Lori James and Assistant Human Resources Director Alesia Grist.

**Below:** Employees work their way through the food line at Thompson Park.



# Promotions/Transfers for May 2014

Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Carmel Barnhill	Admin. Assistant 1	Library	Library Assistant	Library
Antonio Acevedo	Utility Worker-hrly	Street	Utility Worker	Street
Vicente Yniguez	Utility Worker-hrly	Solid Waste Disposal	Gate Attendant 1	Solid Waste Disposal
Elizabeth Perez	Admin. Assistant III	Dir of Utilities	Admin Assistant V	Parks & Recreation
James Riley	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Brandon Mason	Lieutenant	Fire	Captain	Fire
Aaron Sawyer	Driver	Fire	Lieutenant	Fire
Amanda Hyppolite	Admin. Assistant-hrly	Community Devpt.	Admin. Assistant IV	Community Devpt.
Chris Benka	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance	Meter Reader-hrly	Utility Billing
Donald Mansel	Utility Maintenance Mech.	Surface Water Treat.	Treat. Plant Maint. Foreperson	Surface Water Treat.
Cynthia Proffitt	Water Ops/Compliance Tech	Surface Water Treat.	Process Control Supervisor	Surface Water Treat.
Erik Ammons	Utility Operator	Water Distribution	Water Foreperson	Water Distribution
Daniel Goodman	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Lift Station Maint. Mechanic	Wastewater Collection
Travis Hutson	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Lift Station Maint. Mechanic	Wastewater Collection
Shane Bramblett	Utility Worker	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant	Utility Maint. Mechanic	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant
Souksavanh Phansana	Utility Worker	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant	Utility Maint. Mechanic	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant
David Westmoreland	Utility Worker	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant	Equipment Operator II	Hollywood Rd. WWT Plant

## Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Fred DeLaGarza	Engineering	Senior Design Technician	5
Judith P. Weshinsky-Price	AECC	Emergency Comms. Center Mgr.	5
Ana R. Guerrero	AECC	Emergency Comms. Specialist	10
Michael F. Jesse	River Rd. Water Reclamation	Operations Control Super.	10
Joseph M. Ray	Park Maintenance	Park Plumber II	10
Jonathan H. Gresham	Director of Utilities	Chief Water Utilities Engineer	15
Jeremiah M. Johnson	Street Department	Utility Operator	15
Gwendolyn K. Langham	City Care Clinic	U.R. Nurse	15
Michael T. Lynch	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	15
Brandon M. Mason	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	15
Jacob L. Oehlert	Fire Operations	Fire Captain	15
Maria I. Carbajal	Utilities Office	Admin. Technician	20
Barbara A. Davis	Solid Waste Collection	Admin. Assistant I	20
Pete S. Garcia, Jr.	Fire Operations	Fire Fighter	20
Gregg A. Gattis	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	20
Glenda L. McReynolds	Water Distribution	Admin. Assistant II	20
Porter R. Dickson	Transit Fixed Route	Bus Driver	25
Debra Warner	Facilities Maintenance	Admin. Assistant III	25
Alma L. York	Accounting	Financial Acct./Grants Mgr.	25
Cheryl Ann Maguire	Civilian Personnel	Admin. Assistant I	30
Garry D. Morren	Solid Waste Disposal	Disposal Equipment Operator	30
Donald W. Wilhite	Surface Water Treatment	Electrician II	30



High Noon on the Square!  
At Noon every Wednesday  
through July 30 on the  
Potter County  
Courthouse Lawn.

[www.centercity.org](http://www.centercity.org)

Visit the City's  
**EVERY DROP COUNTS**  
booth for popsicles!

# Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Christie Nelson	Admin. Assistant-hrly	Library
Nathan Hugg	Messenger-hrly	Library
Jessica Turman	Messenger-hrly	Central Stores
Antonio Acevedo	Utility Worker	Street
Joseph Dominguez	Utility Worker	Street
Jose Vasquez	Utility Worker-hrly	Solid Waste Collection
Cody Cunningham	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Collection
Virgil Brown	Residential Equip. Op.-hrly	Solid Waste Collection
Rudolph Mendoza	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Disposal
Jon Randolph	Bus Driver	Transit
John Turner IV	Cart Attendant-hrly	Ross Rogers Golf Course
Mark Osmus	Utility Worker-hrly	Comanche Trail Golf Course
Jimmy Shoels	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Joseph Easter	Youth Worker- hrly	Park Maintenance
Tyrel Webb	Youth Worker- hrly	Park Maintenance
Ricardo Espinoza	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Patrick Tillman	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Jacob Marshall	Youth Worker- hrly	Park Maintenance
Samuel Hardy	Utility Worker-hrly	Park Maintenance
Tricia Bopp-Dodds	Crew Leader-hrly	Park Maintenance
Joseph Shipp	Crew Leader-hrly	Park Maintenance
Casie Cleaver	Crew Leader-hrly	Park Maintenance
James Riley	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Jordan Acker	Admissions/Concessions-hrly	Zoo
Michelle Wood	Admin. Assistant III	Community Devpt.
Amanda Hyppolite	Admin. Assistant-hrly	Community Devpt.
Stephanie Sanchez-Valdez	CD Coordinator	Public Health
Maritza Diaz	WIC Technician-hrly	WIC
Dancee Pinkston	Nutrition Technician-hrly	WIC
Gayla Mahaffee	Admin. Assistant II	Utilities
Brandon Harmon	Utility Maintenance Mechanic	Surface Water Treatment
Sandra Rodriguez	Admin. Assistant 1	Water Distribution
Matthew Lamb	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Fabian Urias	Custodian-hrly	Dept. of Aviations
Julia Muro	Custodian-hrly	Dept. of Aviations
Johnathan Denbow	Utility Worker	Dept. of Aviations
Bobby Tagle	Airport Police Officer	Dept. of Aviations
Michael Payne	IT Technician	IT
Soren Frost	IT Technician-hrly	IT

## Congratulations May Retirees!

### **Carole McKnight**

Public Health

10 years

### **Rose Lomeli**

Animal Control

21 years

### **Johnny Woods**

Solid Waste Collection

13 years

### **Cheryl Martin**

Civilian Police Department

9 years

### **Bob Hampton**

Transit

12 years

### **Mike McGee**

30 years

Animal Control

### **Michael Dean Coleman**

APD

35 years

## *Smile of the Month!*



**Are You Smiling? Share It!**

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**PUBLICATION POLICY:**

The *ACE* employee newsletter is distributed by the City Secretary's office monthly through e-mail, print copies and the City's Intranet site. It is designed to help keep you informed of events and accomplishments throughout the organization you serve. If you have ideas for future stories, features or photo opportunities, or to receive this newsletter electronically, contact:

**newsletter@amarillo.gov**  
**378-3549**

Items must be received no later than the first Friday of each month to make that month's edition.

All items are subject to space availability and edited for appropriateness.

**CITY OF AMARILLO**

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## Helping a Neighbor in Need—Fritch Fire

It was only natural that when the Double Diamond fire in Fritch burned 2,538 acres and destroyed 225 homes, 143 unoccupied structures and more than 100 vehicles, a larger community across the panhandle responded with aid. The City of Amarillo's Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management responded and offered their assistance, but another department you wouldn't necessarily think of assisted as well—the City's Building Safety department. Staff conducted damage assessments on

nearly 300 structures. The pictures below offer a glimpse at some of the sites assessed by Building Safety.

Meanwhile, the Fritch community continues to recover from the wildfire devastation. If you are interested in donating to the recovery effort, checks should be made out to Amarillo Area Foundation with "Panhandle Disaster Fund" written on the memo line. The foundation's address is 801 S. Fillmore St., Suite 700, Amarillo, Texas, 79101.

